

# 4 Implementation

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This Management Plan, adopted by the Del Norte County Board of Supervisors on January 27, 2004, is the first phase in the future management of public land at Point St. George. It is a general and conceptual framework that will need to be continued forward in more detail and updated through subsequent processes. In general, the plan supports multiple uses of the site; the intent is to balance the protection of sensitive resources with the provision of public coastal access. While taking advantage of exceptional opportunities at Point St. George, management activities must also be sensitive to the various constraints.

This chapter identifies a set of management actions that implement the required guidelines and additional objectives described in Chapter 1. These actions, which are the direct result of the planning process described earlier, will provide a focus for resource managers, decision-makers, agency staff, and members of the public in carrying out the plan. This plan assumes that, for all specified activities, the necessary permits and approvals can and will be obtained.

This plan also assumes that sufficient funding will be available to carry out the proposed management activities. Implementation of specific projects will depend upon available funding from a variety of sources in the future; therefore, a detailed schedule is not possible in this phase. In preparing this plan, however, a number of activities were identified as higher priority projects that should be accomplished as soon as possible. Other projects are expected to be developed as funding allows.

The sections of this chapter are arranged in the same framework that was developed earlier in this document. Specific locations that are associated with some activities and physical improvements are shown on the Land Use Map at the end of this chapter.

## 4.1 Protection of Natural Resources

**NR-1. Construct vehicle barriers.** Install roadside guardrails or other low, vehicle-resistant barriers (e.g., large rocks; stone walls; heavy, decorative anchor chain; or combinations thereof) as needed, primarily on the west side of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road and around parking areas, to prevent unauthorized off-road vehicle travel. Vehicle barriers should be compatible with the scenic resources of the area while deterring illegal activities; barrier installation must provide for two emergency access gates for search and rescue purposes (see PA-2 below).

**NR-2. Designate public trails.** Designate a limited number of specific, existing trails on the west side and beyond the north terminus of Pebble

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Beach Drive/Radio Road to focus and concentrate public use in well-established, low-impact locations (see PA-1 below). These trails must be designed and developed in ways that avoid significant adverse impacts to sensitive coastal resources. Public trails should be clearly identified; other footpaths should be decommissioned, and natural resources in these locations should be restored. Bicycles shall continue to be excluded from trails and other off-road areas.

***NR-3. Locate and design improvements and conduct management activities so as to minimize adverse effects to sensitive species and habitat types.***

- (a) Develop plans for future site improvements that maintain the natural values and functions of environmentally sensitive habitat types.
- (b) As needed, conduct additional evaluations of the project-specific areas that could be affected by proposed plan elements, including wetlands and the habitats of rare plant and wildlife species.
- (c) Incorporate measures into the conceptual design of facilities or activities to be undertaken at Point St. George (even relatively “minor” activities) to assure that the benefits of proposed project elements balance adverse impacts to coastal resources, including special status species and wetlands.
- (d) Mitigation measures, if needed, will be identified and carried out in consultation with the responsible regulatory agencies.

***NR-4. Maintain an airport buffer zone.*** Designate and maintain a 500-foot buffer zone for vegetation management on the Point St. George site adjacent to the airport boundary.

***NR-5. Designate areas for “natural succession” management (see HR-2).*** Preserve and protect the wetland complex on the east side of the site, as shown on the Land Use Map. This area will receive little or no human interference with natural succession and processes (see also HR-5, below).

***NR-6. Coordinate with regulatory agencies.*** Proposed projects and management activities that have the potential to affect special status species or wetlands shall be planned and designed in coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, the California Coastal Commission, and other appropriate regulatory agencies.

## 4.2 Habitat Restoration

***HR-1. “Early succession” management.*** Manage designated areas for habitat types and species associated with early stages of ecological succession. The goal of this management approach is to manipulate vegetation in selected parts of the site to provide conditions that support

early succession and special-status plant species, including the endangered western lily. Methods to accomplish the vegetation manipulation are cattle grazing, mowing, or burning.

With ongoing monitoring of habitat conditions and changes, methods of treatment should be adjusted to better accomplish habitat goals and protect the environment. This “adaptive management” shall be practiced to ensure that habitat restoration objectives are being met and to protect wetlands, water quality, and other environmental values from significant adverse impacts.

**(a) Controlled grazing (G).** Under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, reintroduce cattle grazing under controlled conditions for habitat management purposes. Construct and restore fences, as necessary, and install a new water line for cattle troughs. Controlled grazing shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Within the areas designated by the plan, or within future areas as may be determined (see HR-5 below), cattle may be introduced at specific, seasonally appropriate times under controlled conditions.
2. Grazing shall be subject to ongoing monitoring, which shall be conducted to determine when the cattle should be removed, based on minimizing soils disturbance and avoiding adverse water quality effects, while maximizing the removal of woody vegetation and thatch.
3. Wetlands with standing or flowing surface water, including ponds, creeks, and similar “aquatic features,” shall be fenced to exclude cattle; fencing shall include a buffer area or setback.
4. Exposed dune faces shall be fenced to exclude cattle.
5. The Aleutian Canada goose habitat area (see HR-3 below) may be used as a grazing area for cattle being rotated among early succession management areas. When cattle are moved from this area to the adaptive management areas, their movement shall be restricted to specific connecting corridors. Existing fences shall be repaired and new fences constructed as needed.
6. Crossings of surface water features, if necessary, shall be restricted to the minimum size necessary. A flat car bridge (or comparable) shall be used to cross streams. Areas adjacent to crossings shall be fenced to direct cattle to the crossing. The location of stream crossings shall be determined in consultation with the Smith River Rancheria and Elk Valley Rancheria, and other Tolowa representatives with knowledge of the site’s cultural resources.

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7. On-site “control areas” should be identified to help measure the effectiveness of management practices in the adaptive management areas. Control areas shall contain similar habitat types and shall be areas where a “natural succession” style of vegetation management is conducted.

**(b) Mowing and/or burning (M/B).** Under the direction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, mow or burn designated areas. Management in the northernmost early-succession management area west of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road shall emphasize mowing or burning. If controlled grazing is used, fencing at this location shall be both vehicle-resistant and visually compatible.

**HR-2. “Natural succession” management.** Under this management alternative, site managers would not interfere with natural succession, except as necessary to control exotic species and noxious weeds. Nature would be allowed to “take its course.” This approach is expected in time to likely lead to a dominance of wetland areas by slough sedge marsh or succession to scrub-shrub wetland.

**HR-3. Provide foraging habitat for Aleutian Canada geese.** A designated portion of the area east of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road and west of the Sitka spruce grove may be managed for Aleutian Canada goose habitat. In this area, green grass ground cover shall be established by cattle grazing, mowing, or burning. The area maintained for goose habitat may serve as a “holding area” for cattle being rotated among early succession management areas.

Maintenance of this area shall not use tilling, fertilizer, seeding, pesticides, or herbicides. Grazing shall be subject to ongoing monitoring, which shall be conducted to determine when the cattle should be removed, based on minimizing soils disturbance and avoiding adverse water quality effects.

**HR-4. Eradicate invasive non-native plants and restore degraded habitat areas.** Invasive non-native plant species should be removed from the site to the maximum extent feasible, following further study. Areas dominated by ruderal plant species and areas disturbed by management activities shall be restored using native species. The removal of non-native plants should, where possible, be incorporated into other management activities. An annual “Weed Cleanup” could be held for volunteers.

**HR-5. Designation of additional, future “early succession” areas.** Habitat restoration areas that are *not* currently designated for “early succession” management (HR-1) – i.e., areas that are designated for “natural succession” management (HR-2) or for Aleutian Canada goose foraging habitat (HR-3) – may, following further study, be determined to be suitable for more active HR-1 management techniques within specific areas. This determination shall be based on the results of additional field investigations on the target resources within those specific areas. The change in

designation shall be subject to a publicly available environmental review, which will include, but not be limited to, evaluations of potential effects to biological resources and cultural resources.

### 4.3 Interpretation of Natural Resources

**NI-1. Prepare informational materials.** Prepare and make available on site informational pamphlets that summarize the natural history of the Point St. George area. Among other topics (e.g., bird and plant lists), there should be an explanation of the objectives and techniques of habitat management and restoration.

**NI-2. Develop potential alignments for future nature-walk trails.** In consultation with agencies having regulatory responsibilities for projects in wetlands, those with responsibility for projects that affect sensitive species, and representatives of the Native American communities, identify potential low-impact routes for future nature-walk trails. Generally, these trails shall be located on the west side of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road, and in the area between the road on the west and the Sitka spruce grove on the east.

**NI-3. Reserve land area for future natural resources interpretive center.** Even if this facility would not be built until some time in the future, identify and reserve site(s) on the property or elsewhere that would be sufficiently large and suitably located for a future interpretive center, in conjunction with cultural interpretation provisions (see below).

### 4.4 Protection of Cultural Resources

**CP-1. Protect sites in place.** Protect known archaeological sites in place, without drawing attention to their locations. Close undesignated footpaths that are near or encroach upon sensitive cultural resource areas. Stabilize abandoned trails and blow-outs with native vegetation.

Prior to any ground-disturbing activities in previously undisturbed areas or in areas where archaeological deposits are known or suspected to occur, project proponents shall consult with representatives of the Smith River Rancheria and Elk Valley Rancheria and other Tolowa representatives with knowledge of the site's cultural resources.

**CP-2. Construct a caretaker facility.** Design and construct a caretaker facility within the footprint of the existing parking lot at the end of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road. This facility should be designed in conjunction with the cultural resources center, discussed below (CI-1 and CI-2).

**CP-3. Establish monitoring and site stewardship program.** A monitoring program should be established to ensure public cooperation with preservation goals (i.e., comply with trail policies and stop illegal excavation and collection). This should be combined with a site stewardship program

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where local volunteers visit the sites on a regular basis to assess their condition and make sure no vandalism is taking place.

### 4.5 Interpretation of Cultural Resources

**CI-1. Reserve land area for a future cultural resource interpretive center and living history village.** Even if this facility will not be built until some time in the future, identify and reserve site(s) on the property or elsewhere that would be sufficiently large and suitably located for a future interpretive center, museum, and living history village. The interpretive center should provide information on both natural and cultural resources. It could be located within the footprint of the existing parking lot at the end of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road.

The living history area could be in the vicinity of the interpretive center or, as an alternative, west of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road, in an area where the ground surface and subsurface were previously disturbed by historic quarry operations. Visitor access to the living history village, interpretive center, and related areas may be restricted on occasions when the facilities and areas are being used for Native American ceremonies and events.

The location of an interpretive center at Point St. George shall be determined in cooperation with, and with the participation of, the Smith River Rancheria and the Elk Valley Rancheria. Any consideration of an off-site location – i.e., a location other than on the Point St. George site – shall require the concurrence of the Smith River Rancheria and the Elk Valley Rancheria. A caretaker facility (see below) may or may not be incorporated into the design of the interpretive center. The design of this center shall incorporate provisions to minimize alteration of natural landforms and to be aesthetically compatible with the surrounding visual environment (see PA-5 below).

**CI-2. Construct an interim visitor center and caretaker facility.** To provide visitors with information and to improve security for sensitive resources, a small visitor center or kiosk/caretaker facility should be constructed as soon as feasible. Design of this center shall be preceded by an investigation of the feasibility of various water supply and wastewater disposal alternatives. The center could be located within the footprint of the existing parking lot at the end of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road. It should be designed to accommodate future expansion.

**CI-3. Prepare informational materials.** Prepare and make available on site informational pamphlets that summarize the prehistory and history of the Point St. George area.

## 4.6 Public Access

### ***PA-1. Maintain public access to and along the shore.***

- (a)** Consolidate foot trails from Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road across the bluff to the beach by designating selected trails and decommissioning other redundant footpaths.
- (b)** As necessary to control erosion on the trail from the parking area above Garth's Beach to the shore, install erosion-control improvements or materials.
- (c)** To control erosion on the existing foot trail from the main parking area at the end of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road over the height-of-land to North Beach, conduct the following measures.
  - 1. Install erosion-control improvements or materials, with professional consultation as needed.
  - 2. Decommission, close to foot traffic, and restore the segment of the trail beyond the height-of-land and over the eroded bluff.
  - 3. For continued use of the trail segment up to the height-of-land, fill in and cover eroded portions of the trail with protective material (e.g., chain link or heavy wire mesh) and native soils, or provide comparable restoration while allowing the location to be used as an observation point. Restore hilltop and adjacent areas and replant with native plant species.
  - 4. Decommission and restore the trail segment on the highly eroded bluff and adjacent slopes, install erosion-control improvements or materials, and replant with native plant species.
- (d)** Designate an on-site corridor within which the California Coastal Trail could be located. The trail alignment may be on the bluff or the beach, as conditions allow; the alignment shall follow existing footpaths to the extent practicable.
- (e)** For persons with disabilities, provide parking, an access trail, and a scenic overlook, as designated on the Land Use Map. This trail and overlook surface shall be suitable for wheelchairs, permeable to rainfall, and unobtrusive.
- (f)** Trails on the Point St. George site shall be designed to comply with coastal access standards established by the State of California.
- (g)** Continue the existing use of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road as a designated bicycle route, without providing any new bike

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lanes from Washington Boulevard to the termination of the roadway at the Point St. George parking area.

### ***PA-2. Designate new parking areas, improve existing areas, and improve capacity and safety.***

- (a) Widen and improve the parking area along Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road at Garth's Beach to improve safety and to accommodate additional passenger vehicles and one school bus. Previously disturbed areas shall be used, including the area now occupied by a gravel debris pile, which shall be removed.
- (b) Construct a small parking area (approximately 6 spaces) at the first existing turnout above Garth's Beach on Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Rd.
- (c) Construct a small parking area (approximately 10 spaces) at the second existing turnout above Garth's Beach on Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road. This parking area shall include at least one space for persons with disabilities.
- (d) At the two parking areas to be constructed at the turnouts on Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road (b and c above), provide emergency access gates for search and rescue purposes.

### ***PA-3. Provide visitor-serving facilities.***

- (a) Investigate the feasibility of various water supply and wastewater disposal alternatives. Construct restroom facilities in conjunction with the visitor center/caretaker facility.
- (b) Provide trash and recycling containers in high use areas. In interpretive handouts, encourage a "pack in, pack out" policy.
- (c) Install public telephones in conjunction with the visitor center/caretaker facility.

***PA-4. Install required signs.*** Signage shall be kept to a minimum. To minimize maintenance and for aesthetic reasons, all signs shall be as unobtrusive and small in size as possible, and aesthetically compatible with their surroundings. Information concerning management activities (e.g., how controlled grazing is being used to restore rare plant habitat) should be provided to visitors in forms other than signs, such as displays at the interpretive center and descriptive pamphlets.

- (a) Design and install signs as required by the Coastal Conservancy, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Wildlife Conservation Board. A minimum of three signs shall be placed on the property, as follows: (1) at the north entrance to the future Coastal Trail; (2) at the south entrance to the future Coastal Trail; and (3) midpoint at a parking area with access to the Coastal Trail.



- (b) Allow for minimal improvements that highlight the entrance to the Point St. George site to indicate that visitors are entering a park-like setting. This may be accomplished with a gateway, signage, landscaping, or other treatments, singly or in combination. This treatment shall be aesthetically compatible and unobtrusive.
- (c) Allow for the installation of legally required traffic and ordinance signs, including those which the County may determine are necessary for public health and safety.

**PA-5. Maintain a sense of place; protect and enhance scenic views.** In siting and designing improvements or conducting other management activities, avoid adverse effects to visual quality to the greatest extent possible.

- (a) Avoid siting improvements or other management activities in areas west of Pebble Beach Drive/Radio Road or in areas that are visible from the beach or immediately offshore.
- (b) Design structures, facilities, and other improvements to be compatible in color, scale, and bulk with the existing visual environment. Facilities should be low in height and made of materials that blend in color and texture with the surroundings.

The interpretive center shall be sited and designed to minimize alteration of natural landforms and to be aesthetically compatible with the surrounding visual environment. The center shall be sited to not significantly detract from scenic vistas. Any exterior lighting at the interpretive center shall use low-energy shielded lights, and these lights shall be directed downward to minimize nighttime glare.

- (c) Investigate the possible removal of non-essential communications equipment and antennas.

## 4.7 Funding & Priorities

For this plan to be implemented, further efforts will be needed to obtain funding for projects and activities. A wide variety of sources should be considered for grants and other appropriations that may be available through government agencies and non-governmental organizations. In addition to financial assistance, government agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations may be able to provide services-in-kind to help accomplish management objectives economically.

The following list is a sample of possible sources of funding or services-in-kind; this is a representative list only, it is not comprehensive, and listing here does not necessarily indicate funding commitments by these entities.

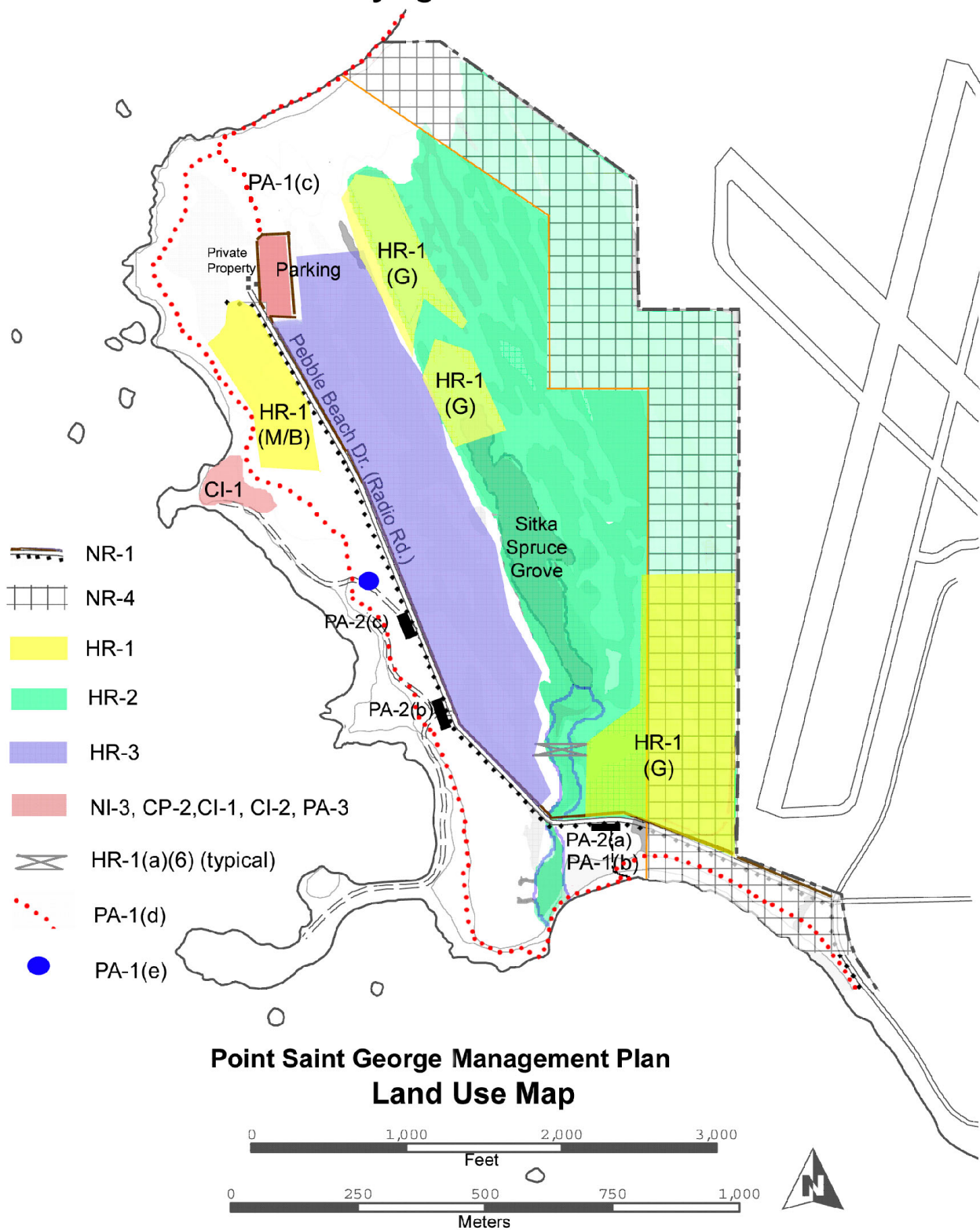
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- National Park Service, including funding under Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act.
- The Smith River Rancheria and Elk Valley Rancheria.
- The California Coastal Conservancy.
- State Park bonds/Prop 40 funds.
- California Department of Parks and Recreation.
- California Department of Fish and Game.
- The County of Del Norte.
- University of California and the State University system, including Humboldt State University.
- The Smithsonian Institution, the Archaeological Conservancy, Institute for Museum and Library Studies, and similar organizations.

While implementation of specific projects will be contingent upon the provision of funding, certain high-priority activities were identified during the preparation of this plan. These projects should be implemented as soon as possible following approval of the plan, completion of the environmental review, and acquisition of required permits and approvals:

- Installation of vehicle barriers to deter illegal off-road driving.
- Repair and construction of cattle fencing to allow the early succession/adaptive habitat management program to proceed.
- Protection of archaeological sites.
- Provision of suitable lodging for an on-site host or caretaker.

**“Land Laying Outward Place”**



**Point Saint George Management Plan  
Land Use Map**

